

The Uncompahgre Journal

January 2025 CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Volume 42 Issue 1

Mark Your Calendar

Jan 8: [Montrose County Historical Society](#) monthly meeting, topic to be announced. Montrose County Event Center, 7:00 pm.

Jan 8: [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with James Keyser on Biographic Art Painted on War Horses on the Great Plains. Lyceum, Center of Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm. This presentation will also be on Zoom.

Jan 15: Chipeta Chapter CAS monthly meeting with Neil Hauser on a study of serrated projectile points in Colorado (**right**). United Methodist Church, 19 S 1st St., 7:00 pm.



Our January Presentation

A “Top Level” Investigation of Serrated Points in Colorado

By Neil Hauser

Neil’s talk will provide information on the Colorado Projectile Point Database, an ongoing project of Coal Creek Research, Inc, and then discuss preliminary results from an analysis that used the database to investigate the occurrence of serration on projectile points of different shapes and their distribution across the state of Colorado. Some interesting results call for more extensive analysis.



Neil screening at Blackfoot Cave excavation, 2012

This Month's Speaker: Neil Hauser

The Hauser family were members of the Chipeta chapter as Neil grew up in Montrose during the 50's and 60's. He developed his interest in archaeology with the encouragement of Squint Moore (his neighbor) and his dad (Ray Hauser). His interests in science led him to earn a BS degree in Physics from the University of Denver and then a MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

He applied his engineering and physics education to support the Department of Defense (DOD) as first a member of the technical staff at Hughes Aircraft Co., then senior staff at Scitor Corporation and later Bit Systems. Finally, over his career Neil had developed skills at applying data analysis to investigate questions which led to co-founding ICR Inc, a company specializing in data analyses for DOD.

However, throughout his career he maintained his interest in archaeology, often going out with Squint when he was back in Montrose visiting. In 2000, Neil and his wife, Teri, (also an engineer) went back to college at the University of Colorado, Denver, and over the next decade, going part-time, earned their MA degrees in archaeology.

Using his archaeology degree, Neil was the principal investigator on a multi-year excavation (Blackfoot Cave) in Douglas County and on an extensive survey of acreage along West Bijou Creek, east of Denver. These were both projects undertaken by the Denver Chapter of CAS and done on weekends over several years.

After retiring from his engineering career and moving back to Montrose, Neil and his wife started a small non-profit company, Coal Creek Research, Inc (CCR), to pursue research and education focused on archaeology. Since that time CCR has had state historical fund (SHF) grants to investigate archaeology here on the eastern flank of the Uncompahgre Plateau as well as pursuing several other internally funded projects.

CCR believes there is an opportunity to learn more about prehistory from private collections, which are both nonrenewable and transitory. Therefore, CCR started imaging and gathering data on projectile points from cooperative, private collections. CCR makes this data available on an online, web-based database (p3.coalcreekresearch.org). Because projectile points stored (curated) in museums are often almost as hard to access, CCR also works with museums to obtain images and data on their curated points and places them in the database.

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From the Editor

Science is such a joy. Every now and then something comes along that is so compelling one simply can't resist spreading the news. Anne brought this tidbit to my attention just an hour ago and I immediately saw its value for an archaeological newsletter such as ours. I report here on a study by Metin I. Eren et al., titled "Experimental replication shows knives manufactured from frozen human feces do not work." The study was published in 2019 and was so compelling that it received an Ignobel award in 2020. I should take a minute here to note that the Ignobel award is not for stupid or downright unscientific publications, but rather, as stated on their website banner, for "research that makes people *laugh*..., then *think*. Indeed, they are intended to celebrate the unusual, honor the imaginative — and spur people's interest in science, medicine, and technology."

The background comes from an apocryphal story from the high arctic about an old man who resisted abandoning his free lifestyle as a hunter to go live in one of the new settlements created by the government. His relatives took away all his tools in order to convince him to move into town with them. Instead, he got up early one morning, defecated, and when the stool had frozen solid, he sharpened it into a knife, with which he killed and butchered a dog, fashioned its ribcage into a sled, made cordage for a harness, and sledged off somewhere out of reach of his relatives. Apparently, this story had gotten considerable currency in anthropological literature—and internet sites—related to the arctic.

I don't feel I need to go into too much detail here, as I imagine you have quickly (but not literally) grasped

References

Ouellette, Jennifer

2025 Inside the hands-on lab of an experimental archaeologist. *Ars Technica*, January 2, 2025. <https://arstechnica.com/science/2025/01/inside-the-hands-on-lab-of-an-experimental-archaeologist/>

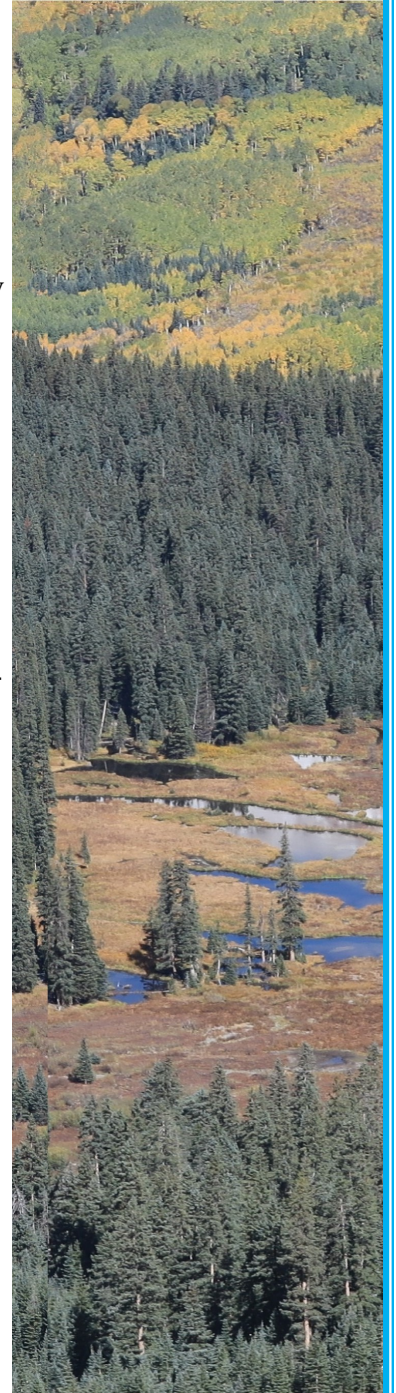
**Note: this is a very interesting article on the broader subject of experimental archaeology.

Eren, Metin I., Michelle R, Bebber, James D. Norris, Alyssa Perrone, Ashley Rutkoski, Michael Wilson, Mary Ann Raghanti

2019 Experimental replication shows knives manufactured from frozen human feces do not work. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 27. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2019.102002>

the situation. Two volunteers at Kent State University's Experimental Archaeology Laboratory provided the raw materials, after going on a high protein and fatty acid diet for eight days (to try to replicate a traditional Inuit diet). The materials were shaped (both by hand and using a mold) while still warm, and then were frozen, first at -20 degrees C, and then for a few minutes at -50° C. Finally, they were sharpened, and then tested on pig hide that had also been kept cold. The knives didn't work. They instantly began to melt on contact with the hide. When they tried to slice into some subcutaneous fat on the underside of the hides, they were able to produce only a very shallow cut before the knives melted and softened.

Now, in case you're concerned, the study was submitted to and approved by the Kent State Institutional Biosafety Committee.



Chipeta Chapter
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Membership Application

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Photos by Dennis DeVore



Check One:

- New
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Annual Dues* (includes state CAS dues): Check one

- Family (2 or more members same household)\$40
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 Secondary (Circle one) Individual (\$10) or Family... (\$15)
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**Southwest Lore* is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society: a .pdf is posted to Member365 for download. Effective soon, if you want a print copy, you will have to go to the state CAS website and pay an additional fee.



Code of Ethics

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge to:

- Uphold local, state, and federal antiquities laws.
- Respect the property rights of landowners.
- Report vandalism to appropriate authorities.
- Support only scientifically and legally conducted archaeological activities.
- Conduct field and/or laboratory activities using professionally accepted standards.
- Not condone the sale, exchange, or purchase of artifacts obtained from illegal activities.
- Be sensitive to the cultural histories and spiritual practices of groups that are the subject of archaeological investigation.
- Accept the responsibility, if serving as principal investigator, to publish the results and make the collection available for further study.

Signature: _____ Other Family Signature: _____

Make checks payable to "Colorado Archaeological Society" and mail the signed application to:

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- <https://www.chipetachaptercas.org>

TO JOIN OR RENEW:

- Go to the Chipeta Chapter website and follow the membership links.

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

For information, visit:

<https://www.historycolorado/paac>

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Our February Speaker

will be Rand Greubel, speaking on
the Weimar Ranch Excavation

Field Trip Committee

Leigh Ann Hunt, Joe Oglesby, and George Decker

For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the Field Trip Leader

Masthead photo courtesy of Bill Harris. All other unattributed photos are by the editor.